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No. 13

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.

London, March 22.

It is understood that the Government will welcome the application for the importation of Indians into the Transvaal on the lines of the British Guiana system, as it is calculated it will ease the situation, which the Government regards with anxiety.

Mr. Asquith, replying to a question in the Commons put by Mr. M'Crae, said that after discharging claims against the Chinese indemnity the Treasury possesses £350,000 sterling.

The New Zealand Government has decided to defray the expenses of the transmission of gifts for the relief of the Japanese famine-stricken.

The committee which proceeds to South Africa to enquire into the basis of the Transvaal Constitution will be composed of Sir Joseph West Ridgeway as chairman, Lord Sandhurst, Sir Francis Hopwood and Colonel Johnston, R. E.

Austria has elaborated fresh proposals which are likely any how to relieve the deadlock if it does not lead to an agreement.

London, March 23.

The Porte insists that Tabah is an integral part of the Turkish Empire belonging to the district of Akaba, and the Turkish military authorities are erecting posts to demarcate the boundary of the Sinai Peninsula.

Great Britain has replied to Turkey's refusal to withdraw her troops from Tabah that Britain is unable to accept the Turkish view and hopes the Porte will reconsider its position. Meanwhile the cruiser *Diana* remains in the vicinity.

The Russian Government is feverishly preparing for the expected renewal of the strikers' disturbances in April. Armoured trains are ready on all railways, and Mr. Marconi is supervising a plan for installing the wireless telegraph throughout the empire. Governors and prefects are ordered to arrest and punish pupils absent from the schools for sympathy with Lieutenant Schmidt who was executed.

President Roosevelt replying to a Labour deputation demanding more stringent Immigration Laws defended the measure relaxing regulations for the entry of Chinese.

The terms of reference to the Transvaal Committee urge especial consideration of the desirability of substituting manhood suffrage for the ten pound franchise provided in Mr. Lyttelton's constitution and the rearrangement of constituencies according to local circumstances. Labour is not mentioned.

London, March 26.

Heavy fighting is proceeding between the Moorish troops and those of the Pretender on the banks of the river Mulaya.

Reuter wires from Bushire that there is trouble at Bunder Abbas between British and Persians about the site for the cable house. The Persians at the instigation of the Russian Consul have commenced constructing offices near the beach across the cable and have posted soldiers to protect them. H. M. S. *Fox* has arrived and the East India squadron is expected to-day.

The Philippines constabulary have had several casualties in the fighting on the island of Samar. Governor Curry is missing.

Reinforcements have been despatched to the scene from Manila.

The Japanese men-of-war's men proceeded to Greenwich yesterday in two of the County Council steamers flying the Japanese flag. The Mayor and Corporation and Admiral Harris, President of the Naval College, welcomed them, as also did a great and enthusiastic crowd despite a driving sleet storm.

The sailors showed most intense interest in the Nelson relics. The Mayor afterwards entertained the men at tea.

London, March 25.

A prolonged Cabinet Council was held yesterday at which the Education Bill was discussed.

Mr. Birrell will receive a catholic deputation on the 29th instant.

London, March 24.

Russian Government returns show that 14,150 were killed and 19,524 wounded in the internal disorders in 1905. The press believes the number is minimised.

Advices from Russia state that the elections for the Duma are proceeding. The majority of voters are refraining from participating in the elections, but the Jews are most active and have scored successes in Lithuania.

Reuter wires from Manila that the battleship *Wisconsin* received urgent orders to sail at midnight to join the American fleet at Shanghai.

Two Japanese merchant seamen have been arrested in the fort at Vladivostok with plans and notes on them.

London, March 26.

A plenary sitting of the Algeiras Conference was held to-day, the first for nearly a fortnight, but the prospect is now so improved that it will probably meet daily again.

London, March 27.

The Algeiras Conference has adopted several articles of the Police project, and a settlement is believed to be probable on the lines of French and Spanish policing controlled by the Diplomatic body at Tangier through an inspector who will be appointed by a neutral Power.

The Indian Parliamentary Committee has discussed Sir H. Cotton's new scheme of partition, making Chota Nagpur and Bihar to an additional Lieutenant-Governorship and leaving Bengal as it now is. Various differences of opinion were manifested and it was eventually decided that an informal deputation should present the scheme to Mr. Morley.

London, March 26.

Three hundred Japanese bluejackets visited St. Paul's and the tomb of Nelson, and Westminster Abbey to-day and met with the heartiest reception everywhere.

London, March 27.

The Queen telegraphed yesterday from Sandringham to the British and Foreign Sailors' Society which is participating in the entertainment to the Japanese sailors, saying, "Tell the gallant fellows I heartily welcome them to our shores."

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman also telegraphed, "Please convey to the officers and men a cordial welcome from myself and the Government who are pleased of the opportunity of greeting the representative of a navy which has so highly distinguished itself."

The Lord Mayor of London gives a luncheon to the officers, the members of the Japanese Embassy staff and a number of prominent British naval officers at the Mansion House.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

In searching for something to express his feelings on the occasion of the bereavement which has come to the Christian community in Ludhiana, the editor came across the following poem by the Canadian poet, Bliss Carman. Its symbolism may seem a trifle obscure to those of us who are landmen, but some of the stanzas are so beautiful that one cannot resist the temptation to quote it entire. There is hope here and not despair, as befits a Christian's passing.

THE MASTER OF THE ISLES.

There is rumour in Dark Harbour,
And the folk are all astir;
For a stranger in the offing
Draws them down to gaze at her.

In the gray of early morning
Black against the orange streak,
Making in below the ledges,
With no colours at her peak.

Something makes their hearts uneasy
As they watch the long black hull,
For she brings the storm behind her
While before her there is lull.

With no pilot and unspoken,
Where the dancing breakers are,
Presently she veers and races
In across the roaring bar—

Rounds and luffs and comes to anchor,
While the wharf begins to throng,
Silence falls upon the women
And misgiving stirs the strong.

Then with some obscure foreboding
As a gray haired watcher smiles,
They perceive the fearless captain
Is the Master of the Isles

They recall the bleak December
Many streaming years ago
When the stranger had been sighted
Driving shoreward with the snow;

When the Master came among them
With his calm and courtly pride
And had sailed away at sundown
With pale Dora for his bride.

How again he came one summer
When the herring schools were late,
And had cleared before the morning
With old Alec's son for mate.

There was glamour with the Master
He had tales of far off seas
But his habit and demeanour
Were of other lands than these.

He had never made the harbour
But there sailed away with him
Wife or child of friend or lover,
Leaving eyes to strain and swim

Strain and wait for their returning
Yet they never had come back;
For the pale wake of the Master
Is a wandering fading track

Just beyond our utmost fathom
Is the anchorage we crave
But the Master knows the soundings
By the reach of every wave.

Just beyond the last horizon
Vague upon the weather gleam
Loom the Faroff Isles forever
The tradition of a dream.

There a white and brooding summer
Haunts upon the gray sea-plain,
Where the gray sea winds are quiet
At the sources of the rain

There where all world-weary dreamers
Get them forth to their release
In the colonies of the kindred
In the provinces of peace.

Whither in the stormy sunset
Will the Master said to-night;
And the village will be silent
When he drops below the light.

Not a soul on all the hillside
But will watch her when she clears
Dreaming of the Port of Strangers
In the roadstead of the years

"Part o' Strangers, Part o' Strangers"
"Where away?" "On the weather bow"
Drive her down the closing distance!
That's to-morrow, but not now.

What imperial adventure
Some wide morning it will be
Sweeping into Lonely Haven
From the chartless round of sea!

How imposing a departure,
While this little harbour smiles,
Steering for the outer sea rim
With the Master of the Isles!

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Last week we printed a brief account of missionary work in Japan. It is a far call from the little "Island Empire" to the immense continent of Africa, but the step from the former to the latter is a natural one in point of public interest. The Algeiras Conference has drawn the eyes of the world away from Japan for the time being and fixed them upon North Africa. We must leave others to judge the merits of the discussion now in progress as to the respective rights of France and Germany; but the general aspect of the case warrants some comment. The great difference between the relation of European powers to Japan, and their relation to Africa is that in this case there seems to be no response, while in that it is as if one live being had touched another. We read the accounts of what Germany claims and what France refuses without so much as a thought of the strangeness of the situation—two foreign powers deciding between themselves issues which affect a third. It would be inconceivable in the case of a *living* nation. As we cast our eyes over the world, we must be impressed with the fact that there are peoples fitted by God in a peculiar way to "work out their own salvation"—if we may be permitted to use such an expression—and others that for a time at least must await the development planned for them by others. "Might is Right" is a cruel saying, and untrue, but "Right is Might" often in God's providence means the same and accomplishes the same ends.

STUDY OF MISSIONS.

By Frances Stewart Mosher, A. M.
NORTH AFRICA.

Mauritania shows conclusively the influence of geographical location upon the people. Morocco, Algiers and Tunis are surrounded on three sides by the sea, and on the fourth by a desert more impassable than the sea itself. To the north of Tripoli is the sea with the desert on the east, south and west. There are no bays, no great lakes, no large rivers. Tunis is the only important seaport town. The great Sahara desert has cut off the Mediterranean coast from South Africa, and the Moslem conquest separated it from Europe. The land rises somewhat abruptly in plateaus till the snow-clad summits of the Atlas mountains reach an altitude as high as the Alps.

The Iberians, a dark-haired branch of the Caucasian race, early settled the south shore of the Mediterranean; a thousand years before Christ the Phœnicians founded colonies. Utica was the oldest city in the world; its rival, Carthage, was founded a thousand years later. Carthaginian traders founded stations westward of the

Straits of Gibraltar and along the Atlantic coast to the extremity of Morocco. The Romans succeeded the Carthaginians and gave to the colony the name of Africa, which has extended to the entire continent, the northernmost portion retaining the name Numidia, whose troubles Sallust has added to the troubles of boys and girls in Latin schools. They carried trade across the Sahara. Christianity came by way of Roman missionaries, and the church of Carthage was flourishing in the second century. Here flourished Tertullian, Cyprian and Augustine. Here died the martyrs Felicitas and Perpetua, and the promise of Christianity in Africa up to the fifth century was bright. By way of Spain, Gibraltar and Tunis, came the Vandals to the overthrow of Rome. The Mohammedan conquest swept from the east over the entire coast, crossing the Straits of Gibraltar northward to Spain, and advanced into Europe till beaten back by Charles Martel. For eight centuries Christianity and Islamism waged their fiercest contests in North Africa.

The Portuguese drove the Moslems from their own land and followed them across the sea to Morocco. For a couple of centuries the rising power of the Turks baffled Spain and France in attempts to conquer North Africa. St. Louis died at Tunis, and the return of Philip III, with the royal biers of father, mother, brother-in-law, wife and son, ended the period of crusade and closed for a long time the history of North Africa.

For 300 years it was the home of the Cossack; Turkish pirates of Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli ravaged the Mediterranean, pillaging even as far as the western coast of France and Ireland. Many a stronghold is shown in Western France and Italy where the sea robbers concealed booty until a convenient time for removal, and one deserted village of stone stands as it has a thousand years since the pirate Moors of Africa pillaged and drove away the inhabitants.

In the last century the ravages of the Barbary pirates became intolerable. Commodore Decatur administered a fitting lesson. In 1830 France captured Algiers from the Turkish Bey and built up the North African empire, stretching southward to the Congo. It was a great blow to Moslemism. For 1,200 years no Christian had set foot in Kairwan, the holy city of Moslem Africa. Algiers has become a fashionable winter resort and about 400 European colonists inhabit the coast regions.



Tripoli is still a vassal of the Sublime Porte. Morocco with Abyssinia and Algeria are the only native states professing to be free from European control. The Sultan of Morocco, Mulai Abd-el-Aziz, is a young man of twenty-six, timid and idle, and guarded day and night by 200 negroes. In a way he has tried to thrust reforms upon the people. Now in regard to a railway he says, "The building would mean the rising of all my people in a holy war against the infidel; the first stroke of the pickaxe would be the signal." The consequences of his government are widespread rebellion. Meanwhile the European powers came near embroiling themselves this summer over some intricate question. An Algerian subject of France had been seized, the Sultan wanted money, perhaps Germany wanted copper and cattle and a mart for her manufactures. Fortunately the crisis is past.

The Roman Catholic church has been active in mission work. Soon after the Crusades, Raymond Lull tried by faith and love to win the Moslems to Christianity. He died a martyr by stoning, exemplifying his motto, "He who loves not, lives not; he who lives by the Life cannot die." Cardinal Lavignier founded the "White Fathers." He erected hospitals, schools, and taught the people farming. Only about a dozen cities are occupied by the Roman Catholics.

The Protestant church has missions conducted by French, Scotch and English to both the Mohammedans and Jews. There are several society and individual enterprises, in all comprising over thirty stations. The North African mission, representing Christian missions of various denominations, is the most extensive. It has been in the field over twenty-five years and has 100 missionaries.

North Africa is an interesting field of mission effort. Its political expectations offer opportunities and promises of successful Christian work.

AN ORIENTAL STORY.

An eastern king was once in need of a faithful servant and friend. He gave notice that he wanted a man to do a day's work, and two men came and asked to be employed. He engaged them both for certain fixed wages, and set them to work to fill a basket with water from a neighboring well, saying he would come in the evening and see their work. He then left them to themselves and went away.

After putting in one or two bucketfuls, one of the men said:

"What is the good of doing this useless work? As soon as we put the water in one side, it runs out on the other."

The other man answered:

"But we have our day's wages, haven't we? The use of the work is the master's business not ours."

"I am not going to do such fool's work," replied the other, and, throwing down his bucket, he went away.

The other man continued his work till about sunset, and exhausted the well. Looking down into it he saw something shining at the bottom. He let down his bucket once more and drew up a precious diamond ring.

"Now I see the use of pouring water into a basket," he exclaimed to himself.

"If the bucket had brought up the ring before the well was dry, it would have been found in the basket. The labor was not useless after all."

But he had yet to learn why the king had ordered this apparently useless task. It was to test their capacity for perfect obedience, without which no servant is reliable.

At this moment the king came up to him, and, as he bade the man keep the ring, he said:

"Thou hast been faithful in a little thing; now I see I can trust thee in great things. Henceforward thou shalt stand at my right hand"—The Sunday Hour.

Duties are ours; events are God's. This removes an infinite burden from the shoulders of a human being. On this consideration only can he securely lay down his head and close his eyes.

Cecil.

COUNSEL.

Friend, when your heart is heavy,

And you know not where to turn,

When the years lie dark behind you

And their blistering memories burn,

Arise, and fling them from you—

The thoughts that poison sleep;

And pray the Lord's good angels

Around you ward to keep.

Nay, dwell not with the sorrow

Of the fruitless might have been;

Nor waste in vain repinings,

The strength to fight with sin.

Arise and march straight forward,

And face the years to be,

And pray the Lord of angels

To send you victory.

—Margaret E. Sangster.

MAKING A STURDY SOUL.

It is an old saying that into the making of an oak tree go winds and cold quite as necessarily as sunshine and showers. There needs to be in the atmosphere something which checks rapid growth as well as that which feeds growth. When the fibers are compact, when the bark is thick and impenetrable, when the roots drive deep and far, then we have a tree for a century, and wood fit for endurance in a ship's bottom or in a house timber. And storms and ice and hard soil are the stimulants to these qualities. Into the making of the sturdiest type of a soul must go the forces which teach patience, courage, fortitude, thoughtfulness of others, indifference to present comfort and convenience, quite as much as the forces of gentleness and health; and no man will learn to be brave who never has a danger to confront, nor to be patient when he has never a pain to bear, and everything is prepared to his liking at the very moment he expresses a wish.—Rev. George A. Thayer.

SOBER SOLDIERS.

The immense value of sobriety in military and naval operations is probably the most striking lesson to be learned from the war in the Far East. Russia has laboured under many disadvantages. "But it is doubtful whether there has been any greater handicap to her than the drunkenness of her soldiers, of her sailors, and more particularly of her officers." Every foreign newspaper correspondent on the Russian side, even one whose sympathies are wholly Muscovite—Colonel Von Goedke—probably the foremost military writer of today, has drawn well-nigh incredible pictures of the prevalence of this particular vice among the foes of Japan.

The English Secretary of State for War, in the course of a recent address, declared that the victories of Japan were largely due to sobriety.—American Issue.

SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

How immense is the number of good men and good women found in the world, and how much occasion for gratitude this fact gives us! There doubtless are bad people, far too many of them; but we are liable to forget how many good people there are. Society is full of men and women who "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God." In every community we may

find them—people who love their kind, give handsomely out of the pure love of giving, work faithfully, pray importunately, and do all in their power to put down evil, enthrone the good, and make this world more like heaven. Let us thank God for the multitudes of good men and good women there are in the world, and the proportion is greater than people think. One man who jumps over Niagara makes far more excitement than the thousands who go there and do not jump. You heard all about that man who leaped from Brooklyn Bridge not long ago, but not one word concerning any of the thousands upon thousands who passed quietly over.

This is God's world and a good world, and it is going to grow better and better. There are bad people in it, but the Bible is in it, and multitudes of Bible-loving, soul-loving Christians are in it. God himself and the Holy Spirit are in it also. Right is stronger than wrong; good is stronger than evil; God is stronger than Satan. Christ in yet to "see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied." His "kingdom" is to "come," and His "will" is to be "done on earth as it is in heaven." He is to reign "from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." "This God is our God forever and ever." Let us always and especially at this season, "thank God and take courage."—The Treasury.

THE KINGDOM OF THE MEEK.

Kings choose their soldiers from the strong and sound
And hurl them forth to battle at command.
Across the centuries, o'er sea and land,
Age after age, the shouts of war resound;
Yet, at the end of the whole wide world around,
Each empty empire, once so proudly planned,
Melts through Time's fingers like the dropping sand.
But once, a King, despised, forsaken, crowned
Only with thorns—chose in the face of loss
Earth's poor, her weak, her outcast gave them love,
And sent them forth to conquer in his name
The world that crucified him, and proclaim
His empire. Lo! pride's vanished thrones above,
Behold the enduring banner of the Cross!

—Priscilla Leonard, in The Outlook.

It is better to make mistakes than to sit idle and inactive and view all things from a pessimistic standpoint.



NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE AND THE SANCTUARY.

More than seventy years ago, Nathaniel Hawthorne in his own estimation the obscurest man of letters of the day, near the close of a quiet Sunday spent at home, musing behind the curtains of his open window, discussed with himself the question, "Was it worth while to rear a sanctuary to be a desert in the heart of the town, populous only for a few hours of each seventh day?" The answer of his best judgment was in the affirmative, for the reason that one contracts an attachment for the building; naturally personifying it, making it instinct with a calm, meditative, somewhat melencholy spirit because the edifice is the symbol of religion; there being a moral and a religion, too, even in the silent walls. No doubt it sounds in modern ears like a voice from the past, with the twang of the old New England speech, because the music of life today has so few rests; because the minister's education is not gauged by the depths of his soul-soundings, but by the length and sweep of his social activities; and the value of the meeting-house is not so much in hallowed associations as in the number of times it is open to the bustle of our religious life.

—Selected.

WAITING ON THE LORD.

Wait on the Lord in humility of heart, that thou mayest daily feel the change which is wrought in the heart and conscience by the holy, eternal, ever-living Powers; and so thou mayest witness, "that which is born of the Spirit, is spirit." And then thou wilt feel that this birth of the Spirit cannot fulfil the lusts of the flesh, but will be warring and fighting the good fight against them; and thus, in faithfulness to the truth, and waiting upon the Lord, thou shalt witness an overcoming, in his due time.

Oh, the conquering faith, the overcoming life and power of the Spirit! We cannot but speak of those things, and cry up the perfect gift, and the power of Him who is not only able to perfect his work in the heart, but delights so to do; and even to tread down Satan under the feet of those that wait in patience for the perfect conquest.

—Isaac Pennington.

ALL AND IN ALL.

His kingdom ruleth over all—therefore thou canst find nothing which is not matter for praise, since there is nothing which is not the matter of thy Lord's gracious permission, or planning, or control. Over all—nowhere canst thou step outside his realm, nor in anything get beyond his care and government. Over all—therefore take all as from God; hold all as from God; and by thy gratitude give all back to God again, and thus complete the circle, making him the alpha and omega, the beginning and the ending of all things.

Rev. Mark Guy Pearse.

IN THE SHADOW.

We must all go there sometimes. The glare of the daylight is too brilliant; our eyes become injured and unable to discern the delicate shades of color or appreciative of neutral tints—the shadowed chamber of sickness, the shadowed house of mourning, the shadowed life from which the sunlight has gone. But fear not; it is the shadow of God's hand. He is leading thee. There are lessons which can be learned only there. The photograph of his face can only be fixed in the dark chamber.

But do not suppose that he has cast thee aside. Thou art still in his quiver, he has not flung thee away as a worthless thing. He is only keeping thee close till the moment comes when he can send thee most swiftly and surely on some errand in which he will be glorified. Oh, shadowed solitary one, remember how closely the quiver is bound to the warrior, within easy reach of the hand and guarded jealously.

—F. B. Meyer.

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